

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## From Sea to Shining Sea

The NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES properly urged rejection of the KING AMENDMENT to the FARM BILL because it would pre-empt assorted local agricultural policies that are vital in protecting AMERICA's farmland, forests, waterways, and most importantly, the health and welfare of constituents. The U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, *Tom Vilsack* warned that the wayward amendment should be spiked emphatically by the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

*Secretary Vilsack* warned that the KING AMENDMENT can only lead to years of litigation, marketplace confusion, and unintended consequences because it abrogates states' rights guaranteed under the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. *Mr. King* is a notorious mocker of animal protection reform and his amendment is so sweeping and vaguely worded that it is a real threat to all manner of current state prerogatives. His federal fiat would amount to disabling states from setting mandatory standards on agricultural products.

In addition to clandestine TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) trade deals, AMERICA and the EUROPEAN UNION have been working on THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIPS) but it is insidious because the *U.S. Farm Lobby* and *International Food Manufacturers* are trying to do away with EUROPEAN labeling mandates so companies such as *Kraft* and *Nestle* can sell *Genetically Modified Organisms in their Genetically Engineered* food to EUROPE without a label. Clearly it is time for CONGRESS to voice that trade deals gone amuck must be reined.

Thankfully Democrat *Harry Reid* of NEVADA, the SENATE MAJORITY LEADER broke publicly with the *White House* on trade policy agenda, by saying that he is against the "*Trade Promotion Authority*" known as the fast track. *Senator Reid* made his opposition plain to Democrat *Max Baucus* of MONTANA, the SENATE FINANCE CHAIRMAN, and to Democrat *Ron Wyden* of OREGON. *Senator Wyden* also expressed concerns with the existing fast track bill.

According to the AFL-CIO, *Senator Reid's* comments offer the WHITE HOUSE a great opportunity to get off the fast track to bad trade deals. The WHITE HOUSE could cooperate, rather than fight against its Democratic party. Otherwise it feels disconcerting to the American people to see a pattern of executive fiat to circumvent CONGRESS.

In fact the ranking member on the SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S *Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights* is Republican *Ted Cruz* of TEXAS claims it smacks of dictatorship for *President Obama* to have a pattern of ignoring federal law.

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Even SENATE MAJORITY WHIP, Democrat *Dick Durbin*, from ILLINOIS implicates that the caucus does NOT want to be pushed into a rushed decision to speed trade agreements that could hurt election candidates this year. The trade deals are bitterly opposed by many constituents and labor leaders.

AMERICA's youth are particularly hostile to economic growth that threatens their planet. We have reached a point in history when economic growth has become a global threat to the next generation because it vies with their environmental concerns, and fairness must trump growth because social justice priorities are higher human values than growth insatiability.

(Sources: Fall 2013, IN GOOD TILTH, Volume 24, Number 3, "GMO Planet Meets Celestial Ag" by Andrew Rodman; January 25, 2014, NEW YORK TIMES, "A Hidden Threat in the Farm Bill"; January 27, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Many Seem Not to Care for Growth" by Cal Anderson; January 29, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The Imperial Presidency of Barack Obama" by Ted Cruz; January 30, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Reid Deal Body Blow to Obama on Trade" by William Mandin and Siobhan Hughes, in WASHINGTON; February 4, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Splits Emerge Between Obama, His Party")

#### VERMONT's State Edict

According to the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) 3.25 million gallons of AMERICAN maple syrup was sold last year, with 40 percent of the total proudly VERMONT maple syrup. VERMONT is AMERICA's biggest producer of maple syrup. The lobbyists got VERMONT to be the first state to adopt a state-wide edict. It is outrageous that THE INTERNATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP INSTITUTE lobby's "maple experts" prohibit maple farmers from just selling syrup to their neighbors.

The global trade pushers of worldwide marketing want international uniformity. Since Grade A is the international trading standard for maple syrup, then one-size-fits-all. Just suppose all students in class got graded A as students, in order to pass the C and D students forward. How do you think high achievers would feel about the Grade A becoming the new average. The trade deals presume minimum standards. In other words, it is lowering the bar. We are talking obedience to sameness without exception. You may notice how awful unity feels, when you lose diversity.

Not content to gloat over getting VERMONT in their pocket, the alleged "experts" are horning in on the entire NORTH AMERICAN maple belt of twelve states in AMERICA and four provinces in CANADA. All VERMONT syrup must be retailed with a Grade A label, in compliance with new international trade standards. Some maple farmers might not like to goose step like ducks in a line saying, "Quack, quack, quack".

The VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE's official staff person, *Henry Marckres*, is another alleged "maple specialist" of the Industrial oligarchy. He just exported 10,000 cases of VERMONT's syrup to AUSTRALIA. He also boasts interests in THAILAND. But maple syrup is the state flavor of VERMONT. The state's maple farmers had four grades of maple syrup. But tourists liked the quaintness of special VERMONT packaging. VERMONT constituents are probably sorry they elected officials who have messed that all up. The new state law bullies all VERMONT's maple farmers to comply by January 2015, or face fines if they don't share label descriptions with QUEBEC, MAINE, NEW YORK, and elsewhere. It's an indication of what the fast track trade deals are ushering in.

No wonder, then, that anger over feeling violated is thematic with online maple chat rooms over local rights being supplanted by the state. Some maple farmers posit that speculative maple-syrup trading will lead to standardized price control. Formal opposition has been made by the NEW YORK MAPLE PRODUCERS co-op. But the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) is reviewing a proposal for the USDA to federally adopt the new rule, per Big Industry's request.

(Source: February 3, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Sweet Dilemma: will Syrup Standards Sap Vermont's Image" by Jennifer Lewitz, MONTPELIER, VT)

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### What about those Anti-Trust Laws

According to REUTERS, the largest U.S. food distributor, SYSCO CORPORATION, has grown to \$220.2 million in revenue, by buying warehouses, delivering food, delivering ingredients, and delivering other supplies to institutional customers, restaurants, and schools. In fact the restaurant industry accounts for 60 percent of SYSCO's 425,000 customers.

Now SYSCO wants to acquire its rival, US FOODS, the second largest food distributor in AMERICA. The \$3.5 billion acquisition will create one giant company with \$65 billion annual revenue and will own a quarter of the entire food distribution market in AMERICA. Distribution routes will be combined and technology will be shared. SYSCO will charge smaller restaurants more for providing services than it charges national chains.

SYSCO's deal to buy out their competition awaits a regulatory review by the FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC). That presents a problem to restaurant industry executives who view the merger with anxiety because of their concerns that SYSCO will diminish competition and gain too much purchasing power. The restaurants fear SYSCO will gain too much control over the availability of key goods and too much control over pricing.

SYSCO's Chief Financial Officer, *Chris Kreidler* is leading the merger and he has an understanding that, because of AMERICA's anti-trust laws, the FTC may require SYSCO to first sell some distribution centers. SYSCO agreed to sell off \$2 billion of its lines of business. But after the anti-trust laws are gotten around, SYSCO plans to grow.

(Source: February 3, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Food Supplier Bets on Easing a Squeeze" by Annie Gasparro)

### What Kind of A World Would You Like to See

You probably already saw that *Georg Sieman* is the Chief Executive of ORGANIC VALLEY, the largest co-operative of organic farmers in AMERICA. *U.S.D.A. Certified Organic* means you can't use GMO/GE agrochemical practices. You don't have to understand that large food personhoods such as COCA-COLA, CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY, DANONE SA are buying up small organic food makers for their growth engine. For example, DANONE SA now owns STONYFIELD FARMS

(Source: January 23, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Organic Tries to Grow Up" by Sarah Nassauer)

### Philosophical Naturalism

A person is able to understand that *Genetically Modified Organisms*, also called *Genetic Engineering*, is a human endeavor. The epistemology of the GMO/GE philosophical framework is imperfect and messy, has many false assumptions, and is plagued with bias and error. A hypothesis is a mere guess. A hypothetical theory, or idea, is a biased way of looking at things.

The large, overarching idea behind the GMO/GE explanatory model has NOT produced a better model of how EARTH's eco-system works. Actually, the biological pesticide hypothesis is a false dichotomy view of Nature. The view is extreme and inaccurate. It is a confused model of the world whose specific philosophical framework assumed no compensation safeguards against the failings of human perception, and the hypothesis. The GMO/GE hypothetical theory's proponents are really no different in heart from terrorists raging war to purge the world of those who do not share their faith. You might notice the GMO agricultural end game is totalitarian in effect.

Actually, *Methodological Naturalism* follows natural laws of the universe, which are not limited to matter. But the *Philosophical Naturalism* behind the GMO/GE hypothesis is out of harmony with reality. There is an objective reality. We are living in an objectively real universe and the EARTH's ecosphere does not belong to Man. Man belongs to it. Truth trumps theory.

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The ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) might want to have federal biosafety concerns now. You may not know if a law office would represent passionate, relentless advocacy to bring suit against the EPA for failure to protect the environment from biological pesticide species owned by civilian biotech firms. Flora contamination of natural species by GMO/GE has become pervasive and prevalent enough that the EPA may have to get involved. Even though agrochemical promises seemed benign, the real life impact of such practices has negative gain.

Come see direct evidence presented by *Dr. Ramon Seidler*, who formerly wrote the EPA biosafety guidelines. He is listed by Cambridge as one of the top 2000 scientists in the world and has 150 slides, questioning why anyone would want to plant those seed crops once truth be told.

MARCH 21, AT 5 p.m. -- the SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY campus at 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, in the Stevenson Student Union's Rogue River Room, with *Dr. Ramon Seidler*, sponsored by the SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY's Student *United Nations* club.

(Sources: 2012 THE TEACHING COMPANY, The Great Courses, "*Your Deceptive Mind: A Scientific Guide to Critical Thinking Skills*" by Professor Steven Novella, Yale School of Medicine, Lecture 13 on the Philosophy and Presuppositions of Science)

#### AMERICA's Approved GMO/GE Labeling

You might notice that CONNECTICUT is the first state to pass a law requiring labeling of GE ingredients in baby food and infant formula sold in their state. The law goes into effect as soon as just four more NORTHEASTERN states with a combined 20 million population approve similar legislation.

You might learn that ALASKA's House and Senate both passed HJR-5, opposing GE salmon. You might see MAINE'S LD718 labeling law has passed both the House and Senate.

(Sources: 2014, Volume 20, EXTRADORDINARY HEALTH, "*Non-GMO Legislation Proposals in the U.S. Can David Beat Goliath?*", [www.GardenofLife.com](http://www.GardenofLife.com))

#### Pop Quiz

If you have natural gas in your home, where does it come from?

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